

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

January 2011 Edition

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Welcome!

I'm honored to have been unAs your District Two representative on the Howard County Council, it is a pleasure to reach out and notify my constituents on informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

I have included in this newsletter details on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation which are included at the end of this edition.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

Please continue to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Howard County Government to Close for Holidays and Furlough!

Howard County Government offices, courts, the animal shelter and library branches will be closed for the holidays on **Friday, December 24, 2010** and the New Year's holiday on **Friday, December 31, 2010**. In addition, as part of Howard County Government's furlough plan to reduce operational costs, most government offices, including county parks, recreation centers and senior centers, will be closed during the four day s, Monday December 27, 2010 through Thursday, December 30, 2010, between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Some county services will operate as usual those four days, including trash, recycling, yard waste collection, the landfill, the animal shelter and Howard Transit. County government offices will reopen on **Monday, January 3, 2011**. Recreation centers also will be closed on **Sunday, December 26, 2010** but will be open on **Sunday, January 2, 2011**. The landfill will be open on Christmas Eve.

As part of state furloughs and scheduled holidays, health department offices and clinics in Howard County will be closed **Thursday, December 23, 2010** and will reopen for business on **Monday, January 3, 2011**. The 911 Center, police and fire departments remain staffed 24/7. For a complete list of openings and closings, visit www.howardcountymd.gov.

Howard County Library Board of Trustees Vacancies!

There will be two upcoming vacancies on the Howard County Library Board of Trustees. Applications are now being accepted and those interested should submit their application and letter of interest by **Friday, January 14, 2011**. For more details, contact the Howard County Library at **410-313-7750**.

"Merry Mulch" Program Returns!

Howard County Government wants to remind residents to know that a variety of **FREE** Christmas tree recycling options are available through the Merry Mulch program. Since 1993, the Merry Mulch Christmas tree recycling program has kept thousands of trees out of the landfill, helping to save money and the environment. All collected trees are delivered to a compost facility and will be recycled into compost and mulch.

Beginning Monday, January 3, 2011 and continuing through Friday, January 21, 2011, Christmas trees may be recycled seven days a week, 7:30am to 5pm at the drop-off sites listed below. One exception to the above days and times is the Alpha Ridge Landfill, which is open Monday through Saturday 8am to 4pm. Look for Merry Mulch signs at the drop-off areas:

Clarksville:	Kendall Hardware, 12260 Route 108 River Hill Garden Center, 12165 Route 108
Columbia:	Cedar Lane Park, 5081 Cedar Lane Grandfather's Garden Center, 5320 Phelps Luck Drive
Elkridge:	Rockburn Park, 5400 Landing Road
Ellicott City:	Small Circuit Court parking lot on upper Court House Drive (Just past Ellicott Mills Drive, on the right)
Highland:	Schooley Mill Park, 12975 Hall Shop Road
Marriottsville:	Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area, 2350 Marriottsville Road
Savage:	Savage Park, 8400 Fair Street
Woodbine:	Western Regional Park, 14800 Carrs Mill Road

Howard County residents with curbside yardwaste collection can set their Christmas trees out on their regular curbside recycling days between **January 3, 2011 and January 21, 2011**. Trees will not be accepted on trash collection days. Please remove all decorations, including tinsel, garland, ornaments, lights, tree stands and plastic bags. Trees must be cut into less than four foot lengths and tied. Each bundle must weigh less than 40 pounds. Set your tree out the night before your collection day. Trees may be picked up as early as 6am or as late as 7pm.

After January 21, 2011, when the sites listed above have stopped accepting Christmas trees and curbside yardwaste collection is no longer offered, residents can continue to bring their Christmas trees to the Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area – open Monday through Saturday 8am to 4pm.

Artificial Christmas trees, wreaths and garland can also be recycled year-round at the Alpha Ridge Landfill Residents' Convenience Area.

JROTC Registration Begins for the 2011/2012 School Year!

Monday, December 6, 2010 marked the opening date for students to request an interview with the JROTC Instructor and the School Administrator if the JROTC program is not offered at their designated high school and they are interested in enrolling in the program for the 2011/2012 school year.

Parents of interested students should contact Atholton, Howard or Oakland Mills High School to arrange for an interview. An interview is not a guarantee of acceptance into the program. The final date to request an interview is **Friday, January 21, 2011**. Requests for interviews for the JROTC program from students who were enrolled in HCPSS during the open date for registration (December 6, 2011-January 31, 2011), will not be accepted after January 21, 2011 unless the program is at risk for being eliminated due to low enrollment.

For more information, contact **Patti Caplan, Director of Public Relations** at 410-313-6680 or email Patti_Caplan@hcpss.org.

Winter Restaurant Week Has Arrived!

Come out and join us at great restaurants featuring fabulous food at amazing prices! Whether you've already experienced one of these locations and can't get enough or looking to try out a local destination, you are cordially invited to partake in the festivities of Winter Restaurant Week from **January 17-31, 2011**. For more details and participating locations, visit <http://www.howardcountyrestaurantweek.com/>.

Governor O'Malley to Host Maryland Forward Forum Series!

Governor O'Malley will be hosting forum series including stakeholders and experts in five broad areas that have served as priority areas for the O'Malley-Brown Administration. This series will help develop strategies for the Administration's second term and generate concrete actions and recommendations that support its strategic goals.

The series will gather input from various stakeholders, including recommendations for legislative in areas including jobs and the economy, skills and education, sustainability, children and health and public safety and security. Listed below are the upcoming dates and times as well as the topics of discussions for these forums. Please contact the Office of the Governor at 410-974-3901 for more information or visit <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/pressreleases/101216b.asp>.

Monday January 3, 2011: Forum on Skills and Education. Opening remarks to begin at 9am. Stakeholder breakout sessions at 10am and Presentation and Discussion with Gov. O'Malley at 1pm. Located at **Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD**. Opening Session will be held in the Center for Learning and Technology Building. Closing Session will be held in the Martin Luther King Jr. Communications Art Center. The RSVP deadline for this event was **Monday, December 20, 2010** although residents are encouraged to contact the Governor's Office for space availability.

Friday, January 7, 2011: Forum on Sustainability. Opening remarks to begin at 9am. Stakeholder breakout sessions at 10am. Presentation and Discussion with Gov. O'Malley at 1pm. Event will be held at **Chesapeake College, Rufus M. and Loraine Hall Todd Performing Arts Center, Routes 50 & 213, Wye Mills, MD**. RSVP by **Wednesday, December 29, 2010** at <https://servicedesk.wufoo.com/forms/governors-forumsustainability/>.

Monday, January 10, 2011: Forum on Children and Health. Opening remarks by Gov. O'Malley at 10:30am. Stakeholder breakout sessions at 11am. Presentation and Discussion with Gov. O'Malley at 1pm. Event will be held at **Coppin State University, Physical Education Complex, 2500 West North Avenue, Baltimore, MD**. RSVP by **Monday, January 3, 2010** at <https://servicedesk.wufoo.com/forms/governors-forumchildren-and-health/>.

Thursday, January 13, 2011: Forum on Public Safety and Security. Opening remarks by Gov. O'Malley at 9am. Stakeholder breakout sessions at 10am. Presentation and Discussion with Gov. O'Malley at 1pm. Event will be held at **Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, 550 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD**. RSVP by **Thursday, January 6, 2011** at <https://servicedesk.wufoo.com/forms/governors-forum-security/>.

Howard County Delegation of the MD General Assembly to Hold Public Hearing!

On **Monday, January 10, 2011 at 7:30pm**, the Howard County Delegation of the Maryland General Assembly will hold a public hearing on proposed local legislation. The hearing will be held in the **Banneker Room** at the **George Howard Building in Ellicott City, MD**. If a second hearing date is necessary, it will be scheduled for **Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:30pm**. The public hearing on statewide issues is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 7:30pm** at the same location.

For a list of upcoming legislation, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOA_PIO_hcdelegation.htm. Residents may provide written and/or oral testimony. Sign-up sheets for individuals wishing to testify in person will be available outside the board room on the evening of the hearing. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. Written testimony can be emailed in advance to hoc1@mlis.state.md.us. For further information, contact **Joan Oliver** at the Howard County Delegation office at **410-841-3360**.

Women's History Month Essay Contest!

Howard County's Commission for Women invites Howard County students (public, private and home-schooled), grades 6-12 to participate in their annual essay contest in honor of Women's History Month. Celebrated each March, this year's national theme is "Our History is Our Strength." The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 18, 2011**.

Essays should describe either a contemporary or historical American woman who has made a difference in any field selected by the writer. Completed essays should be sent to women@howardcountymd.gov or mailed to the Commission for **Women Student Essay Contest, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21046** and must be received by the **January 18, 2011 deadline**.

For contest rules and judging criteria, contact the Department of Citizen Services at **410-313-6400** or visit the Department's website at www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices/

Project: Prom Dress!

From Tuesday, November 23, 2010 until Saturday, January 15, 2011, you are invited to donate gently worn prom dresses to the Central Maryland Red Cross. They will be selling the dresses at a special Prom Dress Boutique on **Sunday, February 27, 2011** at the YMCA of Howard County. To donate or for more information, email projectpromdresshoward@gmail.com.

"Children on Board" Annual Pre-School/Child Care Information Fair

Howard County's Office of Children's Services will host its annual information fair on **Saturday, January 22, 2011 from 9am-1pm** at the **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville, MD**. This event is geared to provide parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel with a "one stop shop" of information on child care and pre-school programs, along with personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations providing programs and services to Howard County's young children will also be on hand to answer any questions. The new 2011 Early Childhood Education Guide will be distributed **FREE** to all attendees.

Admission is **FREE**; however, attendees are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Howard County Food Bank. For more information, contact the Office of Children's Services at **410-313-1940**.

2nd Annual Howard County Passport to Financial Literacy!

makingCHANGE will present its 2nd Annual Howard County Passport to Financial Literacy event on **Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 10am-2pm** held at **Howard Community College**. This event is **FREE** and designed as an interactive experience for teens and their parents and/or guardians, simulating "real life" financial planning, goal setting and decision making experiences. Students will move through 20 stations addressing education levels, desired occupation choices and taking into consideration stations such as salary, taxes, banking, budgeting, bill paying, saving, living expenses, car buying, wants vs. needs, credit cards and much, much more!

For more information, visit www.passporttofinancialliteracy.com. To register in advance, visit hcopassporttofinancialliteracy.eventbrite.com/.

Bowling For a Change!

Have time to "spare" this Winter? The Arc of Howard County is hosting "Bowl for a Change" **Saturday, February 5, 2011 from 7-9pm** at the **Brunswick Columbia Lanes, 7100 Carved Stone, Columbia, MD**. So, polish your shoes and save this date. You can sponsor a lane, field a team or both! For more details, email **Kathy Swanson** at kswanson@archoward.org.

Columbia Festival of the Arts – 2011 Season Design Contest!

The Columbia Festival of the Arts invites K-12 students to enter its 2011 Season Design Contest. The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the season brochure and program magazine. Additionally, the winner will receive \$500! Deadline submission is **Friday, March 4, 2011**.

For more information or to obtain an Entry Submission form, visit www.ColumbiaFestival.com. Click the "Participate" tab. Multiple entries will be accepted.

Silas Craft Collegians at Hunan Manor!

The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to the 12th annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously on **Monday, March 7, 2011 from 5-8pm** at the **Hunan Manor Restaurant, 7091 Deepage Drive, Columbia, MD**.

Tickets are \$40 per person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the HCC Development Office at **443-518-1970** or visit www.howardcc.edu/specialevents.

Celebration of the Arts in Howard County Gala!

This year's gala will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Howard County Arts Council and Howard County's signature event, the Celebration of the Arts in Howard County Gala will be held at its new location, the **Peter and Elizabeth Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center at Howard Community College!** ! Come celebrate with us on **Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 6-10pm** and enjoy the reception including culinary delights from area restaurants and caterers, bid on a fabulous new piece at the silent auction with work by local artists and enjoy performances throughout the Grand Hall and Art Lounge.

Tickets will become available for purchase in January 2011 so please continue to check the website for additional information at www.hocoarts.org or call 410-313-ARTS (2787).

Winter Art Classes at Howard County Center for the Arts!

Interested in registering in art classes and discovering your inner artist this winter session? The Howard County Center for the Arts winter class enrollment is now open and classes begin **January 2011 and typically run through March 2011**. From summer camps for our children and teens to drop-in model sessions for adults, the Howard County Center for the Arts offers students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities quality arts experiences and a chance to discover their unique creative talents. The Center provides a wide variety of classes in a nurturing and positive learning environment. For more details, visit www.hocoarts.org/schedule_of_classes.php.

GreenFest 2011

GreenFest 2011 will be held on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10am-4pm at Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, MD**. For more information, visit GreenFest online at www.hcgreenfest.org.

BB&T Presents Chocolate Ball to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of The Arc

BB&T will present Chocolate Ball 2011 "Golden Opportunities" in celebration of The Arc of Howard County's 50th anniversary on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 7pm-midnight** at the **Kossiakoff Center, John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory**. The black-tie-preferred event is expected to be a sell-out so get your tickets soon! For more information, contact Kathy Swanson, Director of Resource Development at kswanson@archoward.org or call 410-730-0638 x306.

Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair!

The Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair will be held **Saturday, April 9, 2011**. The location and time of this event has yet to be scheduled so please mark your calendars to save the date and visit www.comehometohowardcounty.org for updated information or call 410-313-6320.

Simply Fierce Fashion Show

Howard County teens are invited to participate in this inaugural event to be held on **Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 2-4pm at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place #2 in Columbia, MD**. It will showcase local fashion and/or jewelry designer's products and their own unique style. Any Howard County teen aged 11-17 is eligible to participate; no prior experience necessary.

Interested models and fashion/jewelry designers are asked to contact **Shawnte Berry** at 410-313-4704 or sberry@howardcountymd.gov.

2011 Rebuilding Day!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is now accepting homeowner applications for its' 2011 Rebuilding Day on **Saturday, April 30, 2011**. Volunteers deliver **FREE** services on National Rebuilding Day using donated materials and supplies to ensure a warm, safe and dry home for low income homeowners, families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and veterans in Howard County.

For more information or an application, call 410-381-3338, email info@rebuildingtogetherhc.org or visit www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org.

SHA Pilot Lighting Project on MD Route 100 in Howard County to Reduce Energy Consumption!

The State Highway Administration is initiating a pilot lighting reduction project on MD Route 100 in Howard County in the interest of reducing energy consumption while maintaining the safety of the roadway. Route 100 was selected as one of two pilot projects to reduce the number of lighting fixtures that are lit without compromising the safety of the traveling public. Route 100 was selected as a roadway that SHA felt will have sufficient lighting after it de-energizes the approximately 75 light poles in the corridor as part of the pilot.

The poles that have been selected to be turned off are marked with fluorescent green bands of tape around the lower section of the light pole and the work to disconnect the power from these fixtures will be performed within a month. If the pilot proves to be successful, we will physically remove the actual light poles and store them in inventory to replace existing light poles that are damaged in the future.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact **David Coyne, District Engineer** at 301-624-8102 or email dcoyne@sha.state.md.us.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a FREE ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club has been formed and will begin in **January 2011**. It will be held from 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and Fridays and Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at 410-313-5441. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) will be holding its December meeting Friday, December 10, 2010 from 7:30am-11am at the Fort Meade Golf Clubhouse, Fort Meade, MD. This event will focus on Fort Meade, its operations and its tenants. BBI members and the public are invited to attend but you MUST RSVP to gain access to the installation. Seats are limited and going fast! Email Jill Joubert at jjoubert@hceda.org with the following subject heading: "RSVP BBI Fort Meade" and in the body please spell out your FIRST and LAST name.

If interested, the Clubhouse will be offering a light buffet for \$5.95 per person from 11am-1pm as an additional opportunity to network. If you would like to participate in this buffet networking session, please indicate so by writing "Buffet RSVP" adjacent to your name in the email reservation. You will pay for the buffet at the time of the meeting.

Not a business owner but still interested in what's going on relating to BRAC? Join us for our Update Meetings typically held the 4th **Wednesday of each month** from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, **Howard County Gateway Office Building, Suite 500**. For specific dates, please call Kent Menser at 410-313-6521 or email kmenser@howardcountymd.gov. These meetings are FREE and open to the public; however, seating is limited so please plan to arrive early.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Deer Management Program for 2010-2011 Season!

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunt will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows:

Alpha Ridge Park:

Bow & Shotgun	January 4; February 3
Sharpshooting	January 4 (5:30am to Noon); February 3 (6am to Noon); March 14 (4:30pm to Midnight)

Autumn View Subdivision:

Sharpshooting	January 31, February 14; March 10
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Blandair Park:

Bow Hunting	February 2
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Centennial Park:

Sharpshooting	January 10, 27; February 22
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Daniels Mill Overlook Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting	February 7; March 3
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David Force Park:

Bow & Shotgun	January 19
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Gray Rock Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting	February 24; March 7
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Hollifield Farm Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting	February 7; March 3
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Middle Patuxent Environmental Area:

Bow & Shotgun	January 6; January 20; February 10
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Mt. Hebron Open Space Lot:

Sharpshooting	February 7; March 3
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Rockburn Branch Park:

Sharpshooting	January 24; February 17, 28
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Schooley Mill Park:

Shotgun Hunting	January 5
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Timbers at Troy Golf Course:

Sharpshooting	January 24; February 17, 28
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Worthington Park:

Sharpshooting	January 31; February 14; March 10
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In addition, the Department of Recreation & Parks will host their 2nd Annual Wounded Veteran Managed Deer Hunt on **December 13 and 14** at **West Friendship Park**. Open to recovering soldiers throughout the region, registration for this hunt is required. For more information or to register for the wounded veterans hunt, contact **Kevin Vest**, Program Coordinator, at ksvest@howardcountymd.gov.

Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call **410-730-2273** or email chayakaplan@verizon.net

Newest Feature for Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland's Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web "spidering technology" which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>

Economic Indicators Released for Howard County!

The Howard County Government and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce recently released a joint publication describing economic indicators for Howard County and surrounding areas. This information is able to provide advance warning of possible shifts in the local economy that may be helpful in the evaluation of current and future government policies and private sector business decisions.

To view this report, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/September%202010.pdf.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410-313-6444.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Protect Your Belongings & Report Suspicious Behavior!

Neighborhoods have been noticing an increase of vehicle, garage and shed break-ins. I want to take a brief moment to share some ways that even a small change can make a big difference in preventing crime.

To reduce vehicle break-ins, please remove electronics, GPS systems and mounting devices, CDs, and especially loose change or money from plain view. Preferably all items should be removed from your car. Most crimes are ones of opportunity and removing visibility may help reduce these incidents. In addition, please take a moment to lock your home, including your garages and sheds. Residents often leave garage doors open when doing yard work or other activities during the warmer months. If the door to the interior of your home is unlocked including through your garage, it provides an opportunity to burglars.

It is equally important that residents also be aware of their surroundings and report suspicious persons, behaviors and activities to the police. By contacting the police, they can quickly establish possible suspects and patterns of behavior that may be helpful. Please contact the police by calling **911** or the non-emergency number **410-313-2200**.

For additional ways to feel secure in your home and neighborhood, visit http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Police/PD_CommPol.htm.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government's website at www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm. On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm or by calling **410-313-4076**.

Senior Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf

Homeowners Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf

Homestead Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:
www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf

Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:
www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit http://www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm or call 410-313-6300.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Whether it's volunteering for an organization or coming out to provide feedback to the County Council, I am honored to be part of a County in which our residents care so much about our communities.

Active involvement is the first step in making positive change in Howard County. At this time, several of our Howard County Board and Commissions still have vacancies. Members are a vital link between our citizens and the officials who represent them and it's so important that we fill these positions so that they may be as effective as possible.

Please visit our website online at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_boards_vacancies.htm for a list of possible vacancies including any special requirements they may have as well as instructions on how to apply.

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
District 2
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

cball@howardcountymd.gov

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

We Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

"If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships - the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace. "

Franklin D. Roosevelt